

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Remarks**

Claims 17-31 stand pending in the present application. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-16 and added new claims 17-31. Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance based on the discussion which follows.

The Abstract of Disclosure was objected to for failing to conform with conventional U.S. patent practice. By this Amendment, Applicant has submitted a replacement Abstract of Disclosure in compliance with U.S. patent practice.

The specification was alleged to be improper for failing to include a priority statement claiming priority to PCT/EP03/02771. However, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the applicable rules concerning national stage applications and priority therefrom. The present application does not claim priority to PCT/EP03/02771. Rather, the present application is a national stage application. An application only needs to be amended to claim reference to a co-pending U.S. nonprovisional application or an International application designating the U.S. if the applications are claimed for priority. However, the present application is an International application designating the U.S. (as the national stage application is considered the same application, only the national phase of the International application), and is not an application claiming benefit of such an application. As such, no such reference in the specification is necessary to properly claim priority and the priority application for the present case, namely Italian Application BO2002A000155 filed 27 March 2002, was properly received during the international phase of the present application. If the Examiner has any questions with regard to the validity of the claim of

priority in the present case, it is requested that the Examiner contact a supervisory examiner before repeating the statement regarding priority which is inapplicable in the present application.

The specification was objected to for not including headings in accordance with conventional U.S. practice and for including informalities. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the specification to include proper headings and to correct the identified as well as additional informalities.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0340157. However, claims 5-16 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-16 and added new claims 17-31 in which claim 17 corresponds to claim 5, rewritten in independent form. Claims 18-20 correspond to claims 2-4 and claims 21-31 correspond to claims 6-16. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are definite and in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance.

**END REMARKS**